

RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

*66. **SHRI PRAKASH BAPU VASANT RAO PATIL** : Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of all the essential commodities have gone up during January to June 1991;

(b) if so, the extent of increase, item-wise;

(c) the percentage of increase as compared to that of last year and the reasons for the increase; and

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to check the price rise; if so, the details thereof and the results that accrued therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMAI UDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) A statement showing the percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities during January to June, 1991 and for the corresponding period in 1990 (between January and June 1990) is attached. The major factors which may be responsible for the price rise of these essential commodities

are : (i) shortfall in domestic production (ii) difficulties in distribution and offtake and inability of the Government to import some of the items due to persistent pressure on Balance of Payments (iii) increase in procurement prices and adjustment in issue prices of cereals like rice and wheat; (iv) increase in transportation cost due to hike in the prices of petroleum products and imposition of Gulf surcharge of 25% on domestic prices of petroleum products and (v) increase in aggregate monetary resources and non-food credit

(d) The present Government have accorded the highest priority to containing prices. Efforts would also be made to restrain growth in money supply, effect economy in Government expenditure, encourage small savings, ensure better supply and demand management of "sensitive commodities" strengthening of Public Distribution System and provision of incentives for higher production in the medium term. With a view to monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supply, the Government have constituted a Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister. It is expected that all these measures will help in sobering the price behaviour in the months to come.

STATEMENT

Commodity	Percentage variation	
	June, 1991 January, 1991	June 1990 January, 1990
Rice	+6.4	+3.7
Wheat	-10.8	+2.8
Jowar	+15.9	-4.6
Bajra	+9.8	-1.8
Gram	-3.7	+9.9
Arhar	+9.8	+17.2
Moong	+7.6	+9.0
Masoor	-8.9	+2.0

Commodity	Percentage variation	
	June, 1991 January, 1991	June, 1990 January, 1990
Urad	+7.4	+6.0
Potatoes	+25.3	+106.7
Onions	-51.0	+19.0
Milk	+8.5	+7.3
Fish	+7.8	+13.3
Meat	+7.8	+3.1
Kerosene	Steady	Steady
Atta	+12.5	-0.9
Chillies	+56.6	-8.9
Sugar	+2.9	+0.5
Gur	+15.0	+13.8
Salt	+5.3	+0.7
Vanaspatti	+9.6	+13.7
Mustard oil	10.2	+22.3
Coconut oil	+6.6	+4.7
Groundnut oil	-3.2	+23.0
Tea	-19.1	+2.6
Cotton Cloth (mills)	+9.2	+0.6
Laundry Soap	+1.4	Steady
Safety Matches	Steady	Steady
Soft Coke	Steady	Steady
All Commodities	+3.6	+5.3

PROPOSALS FOR REGISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL UNITS

*67. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number and the details of proposals for Registration of

new Industries from State Governments pending before the Union Government, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIE) : As on 12-7-1991, total